AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-14 (Cancelled)

15.   (Twice amended) An on-line system for allowing a client to trade financial instruments over a computer network comprising:

~~a client computer provided with a web browser for connecting to the computer network;~~

brokerage interface means operative to allow the client to trade financial instruments through ~~the~~ a client computer <u>connected to the brokerage interface over the computer network</u>;

providing server means, ~~said~~ <u>the</u> providing server means capable of transmitting account information to and from ~~said~~ <u>the</u> brokerage interface means;

a mainframe computer means operative to receive <u>orders to</u> ~~the~~ trade ~~of~~ financial instruments <u>from the client,</u> ~~and~~ to <u>validate orders based on</u> ~~apply~~ a set of predetermined business rules and calculations<u>, and block the order to trade the financial instrument if the order does not satisfy a business rule, the business rules designed to limit the client's risk in trading financial instruments,</u> ~~to ensure that the client computer does not incur risk in the trade of financial instruments~~;

connecting server means capable of transmitting information between ~~said~~ <u>the</u> providing server means and <u>the</u> ~~said~~ mainframe means;

quote server means capable of transmitting stock market quotes and related information to said providing server means;

advisor computer means operated by a financial advisor to monitor and correct errors in the <u>orders to</u> trade ~~of~~ financial instruments; and

trading system means connected to <u>the</u> ~~said~~ mainframe computer means, <u>the</u> ~~said~~ trading system means having access to a plurality of exchanges in order to facilitate trading ~~of said~~ financial instruments.

16.   (Currently amended) A system as recited by claim 15, wherein ~~said~~ <u>the</u> financial instruments comprise <u>at least one of</u> equity securities, mutual funds, bonds and options.

17-18.   (Cancelled).

19.   (Currently amended) A system as recited by claim 15, wherein the advisor computer is adopted to allow the financial advisor ~~can~~ to monitor and correct client-mediated ~~trades~~ orders.

20.   (Currently amended) A system as recited by claim 15, further comprising a central order room which can correct ~~trades~~ orders made by the financial advisor.

21.   (Currently amended) A system as recited by claim 15, further adopted to allow the client to enroll for trading financial instruments ~~comprising a procedure for enrolling in the system~~.

22.   (Cancelled).

23.   (Currently amended) A system as recited by claim 15, further adopted to provide ~~comprising~~ a trade wizard ~~helper program, said trade wizard helper program operative to~~ which provides the client with interactive information to assist in the trade of financial instruments.

24-25.   (Cancelled).

26.   (Previously amended) A system as recited by claim 15, wherein the predetermined business rules permit only cash and margin account trades.

27.   (Currently amended) A system as recited by claim 26, wherein the order is validated based on ~~predetermined business rules include~~ calculations comprising at least one of ~~for~~ a start-of-day balance and an intraday ~~positions and~~ balances for a client account.

28.   (Currently amended) A system as recited by claim 15, further ~~comprising~~ adapted to confirm ~~ation of client~~ orders.

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29-39.   (Withdrawn)

40.   (Cancelled).

41.   (New)   An online trading method comprising:

receiving an order to trade at least one financial instrument from a client;

validating the order, wherein validating the order comprises determining whether the order satisfies at least one business rule designed to limit the client's risk in equities trading; and

blocking the order to trade the financial instrument if the order does not satisfy a business rule.

42.   (New)   The method of claim 41, comprising communicating an alert to a financial advisor notifying the financial advisor of the blocked order.

43.   (New)   The method of claim 41, comprising:

calculating a start of day balance and if the order is a first order of the day determining whether the order satisfies a business rule based on the start of day balance; and

calculating an intraday balance if the order is an order placed subsequent to the first order of the day and determining whether the order satisfies a business rule based on the intraday balance.

44.   (New)   The method of claim 41, comprising communicating to the client a trade wizard interface which provides the client with interactive information to assist in trading financial instruments.

45.   (New)   The method of claim 41, comprising assigning at least one code to the trade order indicating the nature of the error causing the blocked trade and communicating an alert to the client and the financial advisor based on the assigned code.

46.   (New)   The method of claim 41, comprising determining whether the order satisfies a business rule customized based on a particular client account.

47. (New)   The method of claim 41, comprising transmitting a recap order to the client if the order satisfies validation, the client capable of at least one of confirming an order by retransmitting the recap order, and aborting the order.

48. (New)   The method of claim 47, comprising comparing the recap order transmitted by the client with the original order, and blocking orders when the orders do not match or a period of time between validation and confirmation has lapsed.

49. (New)   The method of claim 41, comprising forwarding orders satisfying validation to a trade system for execution.

50. (New)   The method of claim 41, wherein the order may be received when an exchange for trading the financial instrument is closed thereby providing order validation during all available hours of a day.

51. (New)   The method of claim 41, comprising alerting the financial advisor when the client performs a client action which allows the financial advisor to proactively assist the client with a transaction.

52. (New)   An online trading method comprising:
receiving an order to trade at least one financial instrument from a client;
validating the order based on at least one business rule designed to limit the client's risk in equities trading , wherein validating the order comprises
calculating a start of day balance and if the order is a first order of the day determining whether the order satisfies a business rule based on the start of day balance; and
calculating an intraday balance if the order is an order placed subsequent to the first order of the day and determining whether the order satisfies a business rule based on the intraday balance;
blocking the order to trade the financial instrument if the order does not satisfy the business rule; and
communicating an alert to a financial advisor notifying the financial advisor of the blocked order.

53. (New)   An online trading system comprising at least one host computer connected over a computer network to at least one client device, the host computer adopted to perform the method comprising:

receiving an order to trade at least one financial instrument from a client;

validating the order, wherein validating the order comprises determining whether the order satisfies at least one business rule designed to limit the client's risk in equities trading; and

blocking the order to trade the financial instrument if the order does not satisfy a business rule.

54. (New)   The system of claim 53, wherein the method comprises communicating an alert to a financial advisor notifying the financial advisor of the blocked order.

55. (New)   The system of claim 53, wherein the method comprises:

calculating a start of day balance and if the order is a first order of the day determining whether the order satisfies a business rule based on the start of day balance; and

calculating an intraday balance if the order is an order placed subsequent to the first order of the day and determining whether the order satisfies a business rule based on the intraday balance.

56. (New)   The system of claim 53, wherein the method comprises communicating to the client a trade wizard interface which provides the client with interactive information to assist in trading financial instruments.

57. (New)   The system of claim 53, wherein the method comprises assigning at least one code to the trade order indicating the nature of the error causing the blocked trade and communicating an alert to the client and the financial advisor based on the assigned code.

58. (New)   The system of claim 53, wherein the method comprises determining whether the order satisfies a business rule customized based on a particular client account.

59. (New)   The system of claim 53, wherein the method comprises transmitting a recap order to the client if the order satisfies validation, the client capable of at least one of confirming an order by retransmitting the recap order, and aborting the order.

60. (New)   The system of claim 59, wherein the method comprises comparing the recap order transmitted by the client with the original order, and blocking orders when the orders do not match or a period of time between validation and confirmation has lapsed.

61. (New)   The system of claim 53, wherein the method comprises forwarding orders satisfying validation to a trade system for execution.

62. (New)   The system of claim 53, wherein the order may be received when an exchange for trading the financial instrument is closed thereby providing order validation during all available hours of a day.

63. (New)   The system of claim 53, wherein the method comprises alerting the financial advisor when the client performs a client action which allows the financial advisor to proactively assist the client with a transaction.

64. (New)   An online trading system comprising at least one host computer connected over a computer network to at least one client device, the host computer adopted to perform the method comprising:

receiving an order to trade at least one financial instrument from a client;

validating the order based on at least one business rule designed to limit the client's risk in equities trading , wherein validating the order comprises

calculating a start of day balance and if the order is a first order of the day determining whether the order satisfies a business rule based on the start of day balance; and

calculating an intraday balance if the order is an order placed subsequent to the first order of the day and determining whether the order satisfies a business rule based on the intraday balance;

blocking the order to trade the financial instrument if the order does not satisfy a business rule; and